

Poster Talking Points

Microbes Come From Poop

Key Message:

- Microbes are transmitted from feces to our mouths in many ways (describe the process depicted on the poster).
- Microbes can spread on our hands and fingers. Every time our hands touch human or animal feces, there is a chance that microbes can be spread to our mouth or to our food.
- Microbes can also be spread to other people's hands and food.
- Flies are attracted to the smell of human or animal feces. When they land on feces and then fly and land on our food, they spread the microbes.
- If the flies land on our face or hands, they can spread the microbes to us.
- Water that is contaminated with feces will flow around the countryside and spread the contamination. When this water is used in the household, the microbes could be transferred to our mouth. This can happen when we drink the water or when we use dishes washed in contaminated water.
- Plants can also pick up microbes from feces. The fruit or vegetables may become contaminated with microbes from animal or human feces. If fruit or vegetables are not washed with clean water then we can become sick.
- When a healthy person consumes contaminated food and water, the microbes enter the stomach and can result in illness.
- When children and adults are sick, their feces contain the microbes that caused their illness.
- When a sick person defecates, especially out in the open field, the microbes are once again entering the environment. In this way, the transmission cycle of microbes and disease continues.

Check for understanding:

- How do flies transfer microbes from feces?
- How can microbes be transferred through water?
- How are microbes transferred through our hands and fingers?
- How can food become contaminated?
- How is water contaminated?